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Local Government

Proposal on shared recreation services agreement developed between Fredericton and LSDs (07/05/11)

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FREDERICTON (CNB) - Consensus on a proposal for sharing recreation services has been reached between the City of Fredericton and neighbouring Local Service Districts (LSDs) after four months of discussions and negotiation. Business New Brunswick Minister Greg Byrne made the announcement today.

"A cost-sharing proposal has been developed by representatives of the LSDs and City of Fredericton officials, under the facilitation of the Department of Local Government," Byrne said. "Great effort was given to achieving a fair cost-sharing proposal." Byrne spoke on behalf of Local Government Minister Victor Boudreau.

Under the proposal, non-city residents would have the same access as city residents to all of Fredericton's existing recreation services, including arenas, sport fields and day camps, without any non-resident user fees. The duration of the proposal is 20 years.

"Discussion and the negotiation process, which was initiated following the release of the ombudsman's report in December 2006, was very positive," said Dan Keenan, chairperson of the City of Fredericton's Community Partnership Committee. "It allowed us to achieve a satisfactory result. And that is why we would like to thank the Department of Local Government, which has taken a leadership role all along the process. We would also like to acknowledge the many hours that each LSD representative has invested in this process."

"LSD area residents will now have the opportunity, through a public participation process facilitated by the Department of Local Government, to accept or reject the shared recreation services proposal," Byrne said.

An information package which outlines the proposal will be sent to each residence in advance of the public meeting and vote. A public meeting will be scheduled for each affected area, and a formal vote will be held in June 2007. If a majority of eligible voters vote in favour of the agreement there would be considered sufficient support for that area, and the agreement would come into effect on Jan. 1, 2008 as part of the LSD's taxes. In addition, non-resident user fees would be removed effective July 1, 2007.

07/05/11

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